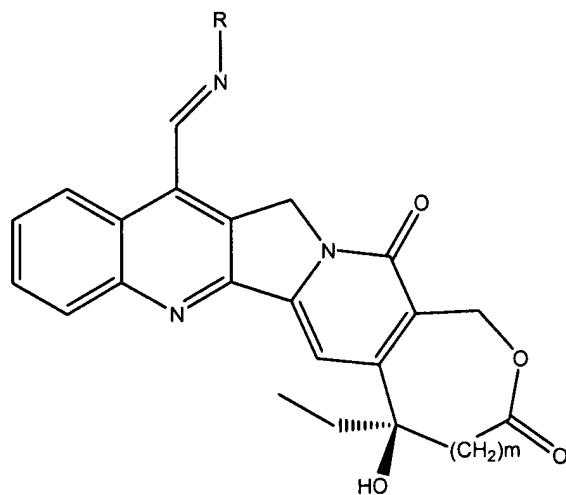
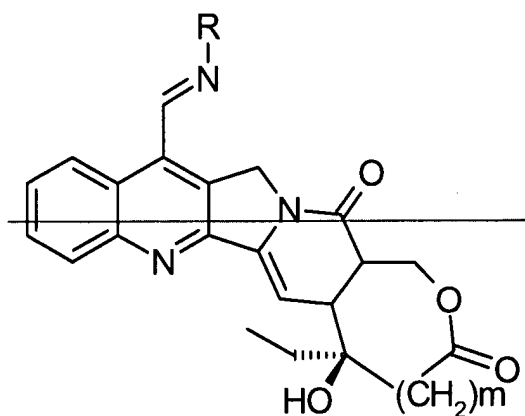


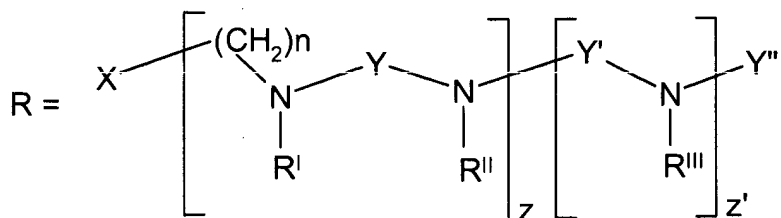
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6, as follows:

The compounds which are the subject of the present invention have the following general formula (I):



in which



m is the number 0 or 1;

Z and Z', which can be the same or different, are an integer ranging from 0 to 2;

Y and Y', which can be the same or different, are $(CH_2)_{n_1}$; $(CH_2)_{n_2}-CH[NR^{VII}(CH_2)_{n_4}-NHR^I]-(CH_2)_{n_3}$; $CH_2-CH[CH_2-CH_2]_2-$ or $(CH_2)_{n_2}-N[(CH_2)_{n_4}-NHR^{IV}]-(CH_2)_{n_3}$;

Y'' is selected from the group consisting of H; cycloalkyl C_3-C_7 ; $(CH_2)_{n_5}-N[CH_2-CH_2]_2N-(CH_2)_{n_6}NHR^V$; $(CH_2)_{n_7}-CH[CH_2-CH_2]_2NR^V$;

X is O, or is a simple bond;

n-n₈, which can be the same or different, are an integer ranging from 0 to 5;

R^I, R^{II}, R^{III}, R^{IV}, and R^V, which can be the same or different, are a protective group for the nitrogen to which they are bound; CO_2R^{VI} ; CO_2CH_2Ar ; $CO_2(9\text{-fluorenylmethyl})$; $(CH_2)_{n_5}-NHCO_2R^{VI}$; CH_2Ar ; $COAr$; $(CH_2)_{n_5}-NHCO_2CH_2Ar$; $(CH_2)_{n_5}-NHCO_2-(9\text{-fluorenylmethyl})$.

R^{VI} is a straight or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R^{VII} is H or R^I-R^V;

Ar is a C_6-C_{12} aromatic residue, such as phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, - $NR^{VIII}R^{IX}$, where R^{VIII} and R^{IX}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, or Ar is a heterocyclic group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from a nitrogen atom, optionally substituted with a (C_1-C_5) alkyl group,

and/or oxygen and/or sulphur; said heterocycle can be substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₅ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR^{VIII}R^{IX}, where R^{VIII} and R^{IX}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C₁-C₅) alkyl, the N₁-oxides, racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, the *E* and *Z* forms, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.